

OCTOBER

Magic Lantern Society

NEWS 2025



Be Sure to LOOK for those Buttons and
roll-over effects

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Click on Slide to see some
Haunting slides!



The Magic Lantern Calendar –October 2025

Events

Oct. 10-12, 2025, **Magic Lantern Show**, Matt Schnittker at Gold Rush Live at Marshall gold Discovery State Park, 310 Back Street, Coloma CA 95613.

Oct. 18, 2025, **Autumn meeting**, Magic Lantern Society (UK), Swedenborg Hall, 20-21 Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2TH, England.

Dec. 15, 2025, **Christmas Magic Lantern Show**, featuring Dr. Nick Hiley, Salvation Army Hall, Alma Parade, Scarborough YO11 1SJ, U.K.

Through 2025, **Project Space Residency**, featuring Melissa Ferrari, Visual Studies Workshop, 31 Prince Street, Rochester, NY 14607.

Jan. 25, 2026, **2026 Annual General Meeting**, Magic Lantern Society (UK), Musical Museum, Brentford, London, England.

Apr. 23-26, 2026, **21 st International Convention of the Magic Lantern Society of the US and Canada**, Toronto, CA. Save the Date – more information coming soon!

Sundays through Thursdays, **Salem on Foot: Magic Lantern Tour**, rare and strange images projected upon shadowy walls and darkened streets, bringing life to tales of ghosts and witchcraft and murder. Derby Square, Downtown Salem, MA.

Exhibits

Through mid-October, **Portraits from the Past Exhibition**, historic portraits taken across the world, told through the lens of a magic lantern, Fair Maid's House, 15-19 North Port, Perth, Australia.

Through Dec. 28, 2026, **Im Zauber Des Lichts, Bilderwelten der Latera Magica**, an overview of children's slides production in Germany with examples from the beginnings in the 1780s to the 1930s, with children's lanterns from the same period, with their boxes, Freilichtmuseum Hessenpark, Laubweg 5, 61267 Neu-Anspach, Germany.

continued next page

Calendar –continued

Through Dec. 29. 2025, **Im Zauber des Lichts – Bildwelten der Laterna Magica: Magic Lantern and Toy Lantern Slide exhibition**, Freilichtmuseum Hessenpark, Laubweg 5, 6126 Neu-Anspach/Taunus, Germany.

Ongoing, **Te Manawa Magic Box**, hands-on learning for all ages, Te Puawananga Science and Technology Centre, Museum of Transport and Technology, 805 Great North Road & 98 Motions Road, Western Springs, Auckland 1022, New Zealand.

Ongoing, **Kent Museum of the Moving Image**, newly exhibit about World War One in film and media, and Peeping and Projecting looking at peep-hole cinema. Stanhope Road, Deal, Kent CT14 6AD UK.

Online

Magic Lantern Research Group, Learn about, collaborate on academic research. Monthly on Zoom, Contact Terry Borton: tborton@magiclanternshows.com

Magic Lantern Performing Group, Improve your skills every other Wednesday on Zoom. Contact Terry Borton: tborton@magiclanternshows.com

Media History Digital Library, <https://mediahistoryproject.org/collections/magic-lantern/> Magic lantern ephemera.

De Luikerwaal Dutch Virtual Museum, <https://www.luikerwaal.com/> Magic lantern history, pictures, stories.

Lucerna – the Magic Lantern Web Resource, online database collaboration covering all aspects of magic lanterns. <http://lucerna.exeter.ac.uk/>

The Museum of American Magic Lantern Shows, 5-minute intro, 10-minute Highlights Tour, 30-minute In-Depth Tour and Kids' Page. www.magiclanternmuseum.com

To add your magic lantern show, exhibition, or other event to our calendar, or to list your show for potential bookings, drop a line to briandrogers@gmail.com.



2026 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

**April 23-26th, 2026
- Toronto, Canada.**



The Magic Lantern Society of the United States and Canada

is pleased to invite proposals for our 21st International Convention Immersive Screen Arts: Projecting, Collaborating, Creating -

We invite proposals from artists, performers, researchers, educators, students, archivists, and collectors on the magic lantern and other related visual entertainments. Proposals that cross-pollinate and blend analogue and digital media and use the vibrant storytelling and immersive practices of magic lantern projection and adjacent media to dialogue with contemporary political, social, and environmental issues are especially welcome.

Presentation topics might include, but are not limited to ...

- Traditional lantern shows and re-enactments
 - Original research or research-creation performances and workshops on
 - magic lantern history
 - 19th-century screen practice
 - slides, exhibitors, and showmanship
 - Canadian magic lantern heritage
 - Indigenous perspectives and narratives
 - Global case studies and peep-practices
 - panorama slides, moving panoramas, dioramas, cosmoramas, pleoramas
 - immersive spectacles, lantern technology and early cinema
 - lantern stereoscopes, stereoscopic lantern pictures, stereomania
 - 3D anaglyph shadow projection
 - 3D augmented reality
 - light and shadow work
 - shadowgraphy
 - Immersive color - slide painting, autochromes, Ives's; Kromoskop, Kodachrome
 - painting with light, projection photography
 - creative, artistic re-use and re-imagining of hand-painted antique glass slides
 - creative, artistic re-use and re-imagining of 35mm slides
 - lantern in education
 - lantern and the Victorian technological imagination
 - sensorial immersion, from the lantern to VR, AR, 360 degree video, video games
 - immersive storytelling
 - the art of projection and the avant-garde
- We welcome other presentations related to the convention theme or the Black Creek exhibition "Invented: Propelled by Imagination"

continued next page

2026 CALL FOR PROPOSALS continued

Conference Venue:

Performances, presentations and workshops will be held Friday and Saturday at the Village at Black Creek, one of Canada's premiere living history museums. Additional programming will be held Sunday morning at York University's Executive Learning Centre. We will also have rehearsals, set up and possibly a workshop at the Village Thursday afternoon. The audience will primarily be members of the Society, although the general public and guests are also invited.

You do not need to be a member of the society to submit a proposal!

We welcome all presentations that further the stated purposes of the Society:

1. To support and promote education through exhibitions and shows, or other suitable means, that inform the public about the history and development of magic lanterns, lantern slides, related material, and their methods of use.

2. To support the collecting, preservation, researching, cataloging, restoration, and care of magic lanterns, lantern slides, and related material, for the benefit of present and future generations.

Source Material:

Presenters are encouraged to use original source material, i.e. original lantern slides projected using a magic lantern, in a manner appropriate to the historical nature of the slides. If reproductions or copies of slides are used, that should be clearly stated.

The Society recognizes the difficulties and hazards of traveling with original source materials. If a digital projection method is proposed, presenters are strongly encouraged to incorporate a few original sides into their presentation to illustrate original format, quality, colors, and special effects.

The length of conference presentations varies. Generally:

- Performances and events are 10 to 50 minutes with extra time for setup.
- Workshops are 90 minutes.
- Research and academic presentations are 20 minutes with 15 minutes for Q&A.
- Longer and shorter presentations will be considered based on the overall convention schedule and the subject matter proposed. If you propose a longer presentation, please specify the proposed length of your presentation.
- Exhibitions and Poster Sessions - in-person poster presentations are also encouraged.

Proposal Requirements and Deadline:

Please submit a brief description of your proposed presentation topic (short paragraph) and a brief bio (3-5 sentences) by email to Janelle Blankenship by **Sept. 26th, 2025**.

We will contact you if additional information is needed regarding content, technical or logistical requirements etc. Proposals will be reviewed in October and notices sent out by November 2025. Please note that it may not be possible to accept all proposals.

Janelle Blankenship:

blankenship.office@gmail.com



**will be at the next
Puget Sound Collectors
Camera Show
October 4**



Drop by and say "Hi" at the Magic Lantern Society Display Table at the:

**Puget Sound Collectors
Camera Show
October 4, 2025
at Kent Commons WA**
<https://www.pspcs.org/>

Our Society has had a presence at this annual event since the beginning of the Society with Joe Koch and Bob Bishop hosting the table.



Appeal from Kassel

From Deac Rossell

deac.rossell@btinternet.com

I am sending this text along to you in hopes that you could do two things with it:

- 1) circulate it to the ML Research Group
- 2) send it to the appropriate person at the US Lantern Society for use in their next newsletter or journal -- I no longer know whom to contact there

This appeal arrived this morning from Kassel, but circulated only to scientific instrument groups. As usual, the magic lantern was not noted. So far as I know, the three lanterns at

Kassel are the oldest surviving instruments apart from a single lantern in Turin, and the only surviving lanterns in Griendel's original design well known from southern Germany in the 17th century. (Don't be confused by Sturm: he copied Griendel's design and didn't like

Griendel, so his illustration is not of his own work)

I have attached here a couple of potential illustrations, if needed at all. I can answer questions.

Anyway, the text is, I hope, self-explanatory, and I thought the lantern community should



also know of the dire situation in Kassel. The collection there is extraordinary for many reasons.

All I can do today,

With best wishes,

Deac

continued next page

From Karl Link

Larry,
Not sure if you already have this or not. I am forwarding it to you just in case. It is an appeal for support for an old German Collection of instruments, including some rare and very old magic lanterns.

Best wishes, Karl

From Terry Borton

Hi All,
Following is a message from Deac Rossell, forwarding a message from the "Friends" of The Cabinet of Astronomy and Physics in Kassel, Germany, including photos of two very early lanterns, and soliciting support. (The message is at the end of this e-mail.) They're not asking for money, just names in support. Please consider giving them a helping hand.

Best, Terry



Deac Rossell

To the Editor,

An Association of Friends is currently in formation at the Cabinet of Astronomy and Physics in Kassel, Germany.

This large collection of scientific instruments dating from c1500-1800 is famous throughout the world, containing the oldest surviving quadrant for astronomical observations and the first clock accurate to the second, but less well known are its unique early magic lanterns and slides from before 1700.

Please send an email of support to info@freundeskreis-apk.de giving your name and mail address; there is no further obligation involved. Your name will be added to a list of supporters of the Association of Friends on their website and the address will be kept private but used to keep supporters informed of progress in re-opening the Cabinet to the public, as it was open from 1927 until 2020.

The Cabinet was closed in 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2022 the director of Hessen Kassel Heritage decided that the Cabinet would remain closed due to "structural reasons" although its café would

Appeal from Kassel continued

reopen to the public. As of August 2025 there is no for seeable reopening of the galleries and the collection, leading to the formation of the Association of Friends.

In the Cabinet of Landgrav Wilhelm IV are at least three magic lanterns from c1700 and several groups of related lantern slides. The lanterns all have horizontal cylindrical bodies seated on tall

stems, in the design initiated by Johan Franz Griendelin Nürnberg in the 1670s and widely illustrated in publications across southern Germany. No other surviving lanterns in this design are currently known. The slides for these lanterns were copied from social types drawn by Jacques Callot, or satirical drawings of figures involved in the revocation of the Edict of Nantes under Louis XIV. Illustrations and details can be found in my book *Laterna Magica - Magic Lantern*, from Füsslin Verlag, 2008.

The website <https://freundeskreis-apk.de/index-e.html> will explain more about the dire situation in Kassel, in English or in

German. On behalf of rare artefacts of lantern history, please respond with support for the Association of Friends.

Deac Rossell London



From Terry Borton

Support the Oldest Magic Lanterns

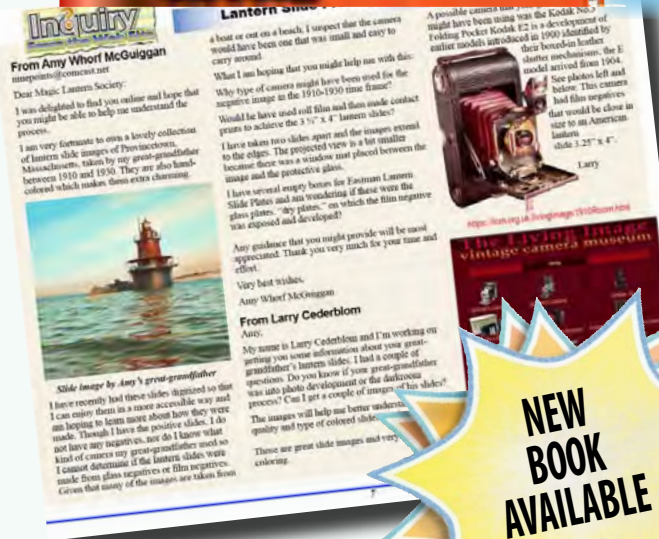
An "Association of Friends" is currently in formation at the Cabinet of Astronomy and Physics in Kassel, Germany to reopen the museum.

This large collection of scientific instruments dating from c1500-1800 is famous throughout the world, containing the oldest surviving quadrant for astronomical observations and the first clock accurate to the second, but less well known are its unique early magic lanterns and slides from before 1700. (Editor's note: These are almost certainly the oldest extant magic lanterns in the world.)

Please send an email of support to info@freundeskreis-apk.de giving your name and mail address; there is no further obligation involved. Your name will be added to a list of supporters of the Association of Friends on their website and the address will be kept private but used to keep supporters informed of progress in re-opening the Cabinet to the public, as it was open from 1927 until 2020.

Please send your e-mail of support and check out the web site listed above

MORE About March E-pub page 7



From Amy McGuigan

I hope that you will remember our correspondence from a few months back when I inquired about lantern slides. You so very kindly did some research for me about my hand-colored collection of Provincetown views, done by my great-grandfather Harry C. Whorf, and you included my story in your newsletter.

I am delighted to bring you up-to-date on my progress to have the slides published in a book. The books have arrived from the printer (South Korea) and are in New Jersey awaiting customs clearance. Fingers crossed

On a Visit to Provincetown

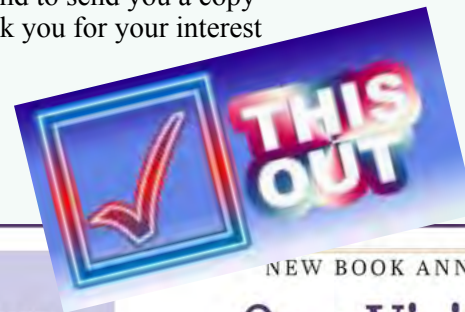
that everything goes speedily. I have seen one copy and it looks absolutely wonderful. Not only was the digitization done beautifully, but my publisher did an exquisite job with the color, toning down (slightly) the more garish tones but retaining the overall elegance of the 100-year old slides.

I can't wait to have the books in hand and to send you a copy as a thank you for your interest

and encouragement. I am attaching the cover so that you can get a sneak peek. The book measures 8" x 8" and is hard cover (linen) with a dust jacket. Several short essays written by me separate the sections and provide an overview.

I will be back in touch, hopefully before the end of September. Again, thank you and very best wishes,

Amy



Listed below where the book is available and cost

NEW BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

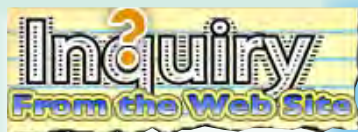
On a Visit to Provincetown

Hand-Colored Lantern Slide Views 1910-1930
by Harry C. Whorf

AVAILABLE AT INCOLLECTPUBLISHING.COM

Linen hardcover, 8 x 8 inches with dust jacket, 60+ illustrations, 80 pages, \$24.95

Hand-Colored Lantern Slide Views
1910-1930
by
Harry C. Whorf



The Magic Lantern Bulletin, May-December 1875

From
Concepción Cortés Zulueta
concepcion.cortes@mncn.csic.es

Dear Magic Lantern Society Secretary,

I would like to make an inquiry regarding the Magic Lantern Bulletin vol. 08 n° 02, published in 1986, that was a reprint of the May-December 1875 issues of a nineteenth century journal called The Magic Lantern. I have seen in the The Internet Archive section of The Magic Lantern Society of the United States and Canada that the cover of that volume and reprint is published, alongside a caption that reads: "Cover only of reprint reproduced here. Contact society of availability of entire reprint". As seen in the link below:

<https://archive.org/details/mlbvol-08no-02>

I would like to know if that reprint is available, in digital form or in any other format. In particular, I am interested in the August 1875 issue of The Magic Lantern, included in the reprint, and in the section titled "Professor Morton's lantern lectures", that has been cited by scholars such as Emily Godbey in her chapter "The Cinema of (Un)

Attractions: Microscopic Objects on Screen" (2004), or more recently by Kentwood D. Wells in "Henry Morton: prince of American lecturers on science" (The Magic Lantern Gazette 30, 2018). So I would be very grateful if it was possible to obtain that reprinted August 1875 issue and the mentioned section "Professor Morton's lantern lectures".

As well, thank you very much for everything that the Magic Lantern Society makes towards keeping this topic so lively.

Kind regards,

Concepción Cortés Zulueta

From David Evans

Dear Concepción

Thank you for your enquiry. I am not sure if the entire reprint is still available, but I do have a copy of it and could scan that article for you. Would it be OK as a .jpg image, or would you need it as text to be able to edit it?

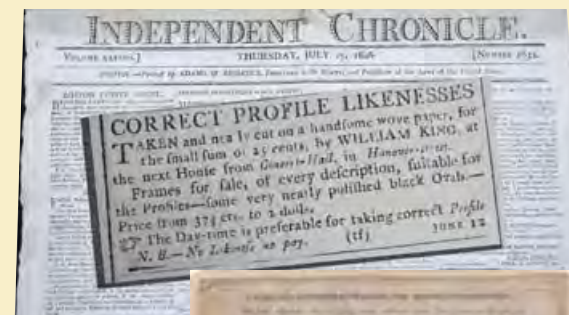
Regards

David Evans

Correct Profile Likenesses

From Karl Link

Larry,
How are you?
Here is an ad about which I found in the July 17, 1806 edition of the "Independent Chronicle" of Boston, Mass. Unfortunately it does not specify with what method or instrument these likenesses are taken, like for example a Camera Obscura, a silhouette method, or some other technique. Perhaps this is sufficiently interesting to include it in the next epub?
All the best, Karl



**One
possible
mechanism**

projection systems - WordPress.com
Light/Shadow | projection systems

A Fun Video to Watch

From David Evans

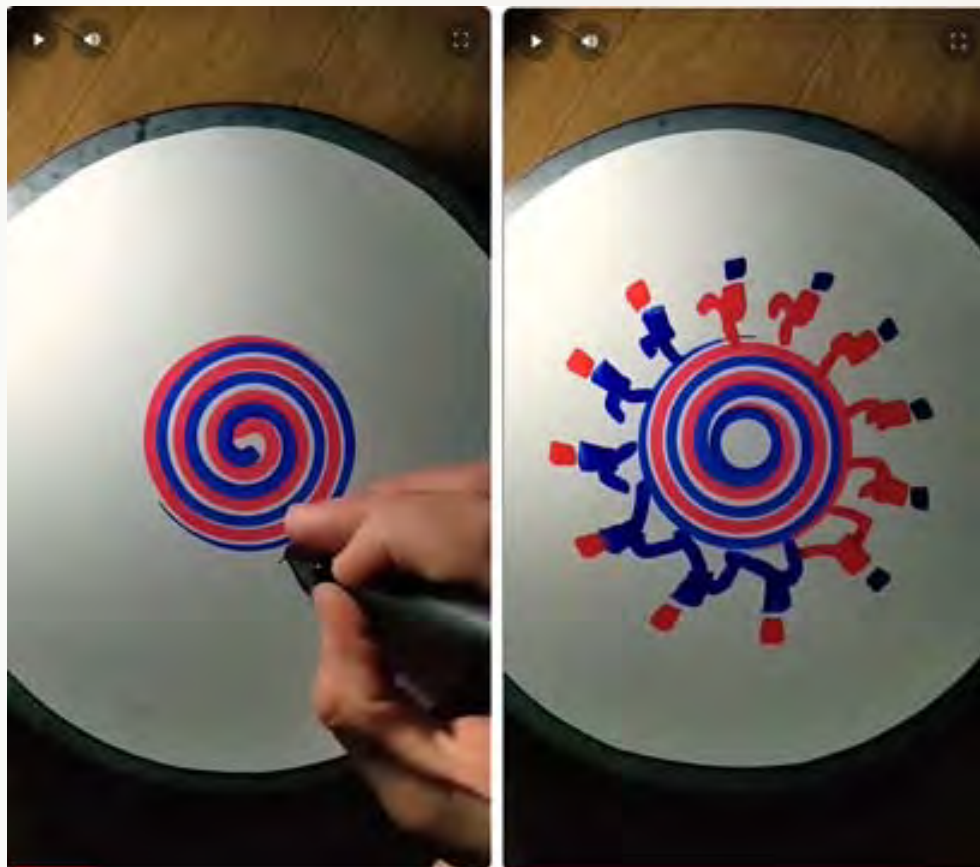
Hi Larry

Lindsay Lambert sent me this - it is suggested for an e-pub perhaps. It's rather clever!

[This Artist Built a Giant Spin Art Machine @limbatrip](#)

Regards

David



<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/JGAbp7TxIJE>

INFORMATION

Wanted

Siege of Port Arthur

From Kurt Nauck

nauck@78rpm.com

Greetings!

We are in possession of two large phonograph cylinder records describing events during the Siege of Port Arthur in 1904. The speaker refers to illustrations, which causes me to believe that these recordings might have been part of the sound track to a Magic Lantern show. Is there anyone in your society that could possibly shed some light on this?

Thank you,
Kurt Nauck

Nauck's Vintage Records
22004 Sherrod Ln
Spring, TX 77389
www.78rpm.com
281-288-7826

Please share any information
you have about this inquiry

also send to
Kurt Nauck

nauck@78rpm.com

Joseph Boggs Beale's Comic Slide Set, Mr. Spurt

From Terry Borton

Hi Larry,

Here's a discussion of Joseph Boggs Beale's comic set, Mr. Spurt and His Auto, with what may be the first ever gif lantern show at the end.

Best, Terry



(image from Skinner auction house)



<https://www.theautopian.com/this-1906-magic-lantern-show-may-be-the-first-car-movie/>

From Autopian

Long before The Fast and Furious series flung nearly-indestructible meatheads at the screen in cars with 36 different automatic gear ratios to shift between and mumbling about how important “fambly” is, there has been a rich history of cars and visual entertainment. People just like watching cars on screens. It seems this fundamental rule about humankind was discovered earlier than you may think, as the first cars-on-screen

continued next page

Joseph Boggs Beale's Comic Slide Set, Mr. Spurt continued

entertainment property seems to be from 1906. And the main character is a guy with the hilarious name of Mr. Spurt.

This first car-on-screen entertainment I suppose can't really be considered a movie because while it's composed of pictures, they're not really moving pictures. No, this first automotive-focused visual entertainment was a series of magic lantern slides called "Mr. Spurt and His Auto."



<https://www.theautopian.com/this-1906-magic-lantern-show-may-be-the-first-car-movie/>



"Mr. Spurt and His Auto 1 - Mr. Spurt buys an auto mobile."



"Mr. Spurt and His Auto 2 - He gets ready for a ride."



"Mr. Spurt and His Auto 3 - And makes a fine start."



"Mr. Spurt and His Auto 4 - Overtakes a farmer in market wagon."



"Mr. Spurt and His Auto 5 - And passes him in great style."



"Mr. Spurt and His Auto 6 - Breaks down in a rain storm."



"Mr. Spurt and His Auto 7 - Farmer comes up with him."



"Mr. Spurt and His Auto 8 - He hires farmer to tow him home."

Let's look at the Mr. Spurt and His Auto series specifically, because I should remember this is a car website. It's a series of eight slides, showing Mr. Spurt and his wife buying a car, then going for an eventful drive. Here they are in full:

The Optical Magic Lantern Journal (June 1899) HUGHES' PATENT PHOTO-ROSCOPE PEEP SHOW.



The Greatest Money Taker of the 19th Century.
210 to 410 a Week easily made
PROFITS IN DARK NIGHTS WINTER OR SUMMER
LENGTH 4 FEET - SPLENDID RESULTS
Price £21 10s. complete. ILLUSTRATED 2d.
PARTICULARS

A Big Thank You to the following:

Janelle Blankenship
David Evans
Terry Borton
Karl Link
Amy McGuiggan
Kurt Nauck
Brian Rogers
Deac Rossell
Concepción Cortés Zulueta

for contributing
to this months issue.